

Claims 1-2 and 4 were rejected as unpatentable over Gersho in view of Honda. The Examiner cited Gersho for the overall and Honda for a zero-phase equalization filter.

Applicants reply that Gersho accounts for the phase discontinuity from the waveform coder to the harmonic coder by estimating the initial linear phase θ_0 for the harmonic coder by correlating the residual with the prior waveform coder residual; see column 15, lines 11-56 and block 34 in Fig.4A. Similarly, Gersho accounts for the linear phase discontinuity from harmonic coder to waveform coder by forcing the harmonic coders linear phase on the waveform coder; see column 16, lines 11-61 and block 38 in Fig.4A. Thus there is no suggestion to replace this phase discontinuity approach with a phase equalization filtering as in Honda; and the claims are patentable over the references.

Claim 3 was rejected as unpatentable over Gersho in view of Honda and Davis. The Examiner applied Gersho and Honda as above and added Davis for the weakly-voiced and strongly-voiced synchronization.

Applicants repeat the foregoing arguments regarding Gersho and Honda.

Mistakes in the specification found by the Examiner have been corrected. In particular, the terms "aperiodic" and "nonperiodic" were replaced with "non-periodic", which is the term of choice by the Word dictionary. The "heuristic" nature of the drawings merely notes that the drawings are not to scale and are description aids.